

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 08107 241033Z

44

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6417

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USERDA GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 8107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PARM

SUBJECT: FRG NUCLEAR INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING COURSE RECENT MEETING IN LONDON, STRUCK, FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY, CONVEYED FOLLOWING TO SLAWSON (ERDA) IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSION REQUESTED BY STRUCK.

A. LIBYA - LIBYANS HAVE INDICATED INTEREST TO FRG IN OBTAINING 600 MWE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, WHICH THEY WOULD PREFER TO OBTAIN FROM THE WEST RATHER THAN FROM THE USSR, A POTENTIAL SOURCE. STRUCK NOTED THE SOVIETS HAD ALREADY AGREED TO PROVIDE A UNIVERSITY RESEARCH REACTOR TO LIBYA, AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF WE WOULD QUERY THE SOVIETS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WERE CONSIDERING SUPPLYING A
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PAGE 02 IAEA V 08107 241033Z

POWER REACTOR TO LIBYA, AND, IF SO, TO RAISE THE QUESTION

OF THE SENSITIVITY OF SUCH SUPPLY WITH THEM. HE ASKED TO BE ADVISED OF THE RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS WE MIGHT HAVE WITH SOVIETS.

STRUCK SAID THAT AN FRG FIRM INTERESTED IN SUPPLYING A HEAVY WATER PLANT TO LIBYA, WHICH THE LIBYANS HAD SOLICITED, HAD BEEN INFORMALLY REQUESTED BY THE FRG GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW FROM, OR NOT OTHERWISE PURSUE, THE DEAL, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE FRG HAVING TO FORMALLY DENY AN EXPORT LICENSE REQUEST.

B. EGYPT - THE EGYPTIANS HAVE APPROACHED AN FRG FIRM (KWU) REGARDING THEIR INTEREST IN A 400-600 MWE POWER REACTOR FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH A DESALTING PLANT, AND THE FRG IS NOT CERTAIN HOW TO RESPOND. SLAWSON NOTED THAT, BECAUSE OF THEIR SENSITIVITY, THE U.S. HAD INCLUDED SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO STORAGE, FABRICATION AND REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE FRG CONSULT WITH THE USG REGARDING THE TERMS OF ANY AGREEMENT THEY MIGHT ULTIMATELY CONSIDER DISCUSSING WITH THE EGYPTIANS.

C. MIDDLE EAST PLANNING - THE FRG IS UNDERTAKING LONG-RANGE PLANNING RELATIVE TO EXPENDITURE OF "PETRO-DOLLARS" BY MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES, AND ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS ON THE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS TO THIS AREA. IN ADDITION TO THE REMARKS AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING LIBYA AND EGYPT (ABOVE), HE REFERRED TO SAUDI ARABIA AS A COUNTRY WHICH HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN NUCLEAR POWER, AND WONDERED WHAT AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE WOULD BE TO SAUDI ARABIA OR OTHERS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE FRG CONSULT WITH THE U.S. AND PERHAPS OTHER SUPPLIERS ON ANY CONTEMPLATED SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS IN SPECIFIC CASES IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN THAT REGION.

D. REPROCESSING - STRUCK ADVANCED THE VIEW THAT LDCS, IF THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT MOTIVATION, CAN BUILD RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 IAEA V 08107 241033Z

PROCESSING PLANTS TO OBTAIN PLUTONIUM WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM AN ADVANCED COUNTRY, RECOGNIZING THAT SAFETY AND ECONOMICS MIGHT NOT BE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN SUCH CASES. HE SAID BRAZILIANS HAD INDICATED THEY COULD BUILD A PLANT IN DUE COURSE WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE AND THIS HAD BEEN A FACTOR IN FRG DECISION TO PROVIDE PLANT WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS. RELATED TO THIS THEME, STRUCK EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SCIENTISTS AND

ENGINEERS FROM LDCS COULD OBTAIN KNOWLEDGE AT UNIVERSITIES IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES WHICH COULD ENABLE THEM TO BUILD REPROCESSING PLANTS, AND WONDERED WHAT, IF ANYTHING, COULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. SLAWSON POINTED OUT U.S. POLICY (10 CFR 110) WAS TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO OPERATIONAL OR DESIGN DATA OR TRAINING IN THIS AND OTHER SENSITIVE AREAS, WHICH COULD BE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT TO CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF PLANT, UNLESS, AT A MINIMUM, GOVERNMENT OF COUNTRY INVOLVED PREPARED ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS ON ANY ENSUING PLANT BUILT. UNIVERSITY-TYPE TRAINING COULD, OF COURSE, PROVIDE BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN THE NUCLEAR SCIENCES WHICH COULD BE USEFUL IN THE APPLIED TECHNOLOGY FIELD IN GENERAL, BUT DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONAL DATA AND EXPERIENCE RELATED TO SPECIFIC PLANTS WAS CONSIDERED HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT AND WAS MORE READILY SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT. CONSIDER APPROACHING SOVIETS RE PARA 1A ABOVE AND ADVISING FRG OF RESULTS. TAPE

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Message Attributes

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